

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are active in this application, Claim 1 having been amended by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Onda (6,304,242) in view of Aoki (6,307,532 B1).

In light of the outstanding ground for rejection, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention consistent with the embodiment of FIG. 3, and consistent with the language of original Claim 1. No new matter has been added.

Briefly recapitulating, in the driving method of a flat-panel display device recited in Claim 1, the counter electrode potential is inverted during the horizontal (or vertical) blanking period subsequent to a horizontal (or vertical) display period, and the potentials of each of the signal lines are fixed to a predetermined potential. With this method, variations in the potential of each signal line due to the capacitive coupling between the counter electrode and the signal line can be suppressed when the counter electrode potential is inverted, thereby reducing the consumption in power.¹

To fix the potentials of the signal lines, the same signal is supplied to all the signal lines during the blanking period through the analog switches that are provided for supplying a display signal to the signal lines during the display period. That is, no additional analog switches are required for fixing the potentials of the signal lines.

Onda discloses an image displaying device in which counter electrode potential Vcom is inverted during a horizontal or vertical blanking period. However, Onda does not disclose

¹ Specification, page 6, line 22 – page 7, line 2, and page 14, line 27 – page 1, line 7..

that all the signal lines are fixed to a predetermined potential during the blanking period, as the recognized in the outstanding Official Action at page 4, lines 1-4.

Aoki teaches a polarity inversion driving method in which pre-charging of the data signal lines is performed collectively during the blanking period. However, Aoki uses pre-charging (analog) switches 172 in addition to sampling (analog) switches 106. The pre-charging switches 172 are provided at the opposite ends of the signal lines to the sampling switches 106 and controlled by a pre-charge signal PC. The pre-charging signal PC is transmitted to the pre-charging switches 172 via pre-charging signal supplying line 173. This pre-charging signal supplying line 173 creates a signal delay different from the wiring for the sampling switches 106 due to an independent parasitic capacitance and wiring resistance thereof. Therefore, the control of the pre-charging switches 172 is performed in consideration of the signal delay.

In contrast, such consideration is not required in the claimed invention, since the analog switches are commonly used for varying and fixing the potentials of the signal lines. Accordingly, in view of this distinction in methodology, it is respectfully submitted that Onda and Aoki, taken singly or in combination, fail to obviate the claimed invention and that the outstanding rejection on the merits is traversed.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments,

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Claims 1-6 are believed to be patentably distinguishing over the cited art and in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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